
ALBANIA YESTERDAY AND TODAY

646 who is in full possession of all his citizenship rights and can read and write the Albanian language, may be elected as a deputy.

641 All citizens are equal before the law and their citizenship and political rights secured.

425 Confiscation of property is definitely abolished.

659 The State recognizes no official religion, all religions are equal and have full rights and receive equally favorable treatment in every respect.

641 Foreigners enjoy equal rights with Albanian citizens, except they cannot vote nor hold parliamentary and certain other offices.

• 645 The official business of the State is carried on by the eight Ministries, namely: Ministry of Interior Affairs (Ministria e Punëve të Brëndëshme), Ministry of Justice (Ministria e Drejtësisë), Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Ministria e Punëve të Jashtme), Ministry of Public Instructions (Ministria e Arësimit), Ministry of Finance (Ministria e Financave), Ministry of National Economy (Ministria e Ekonomisë Kombëtare), Ministry of Public Works (Ministria e Punëve Botore), and Ministry of National Defense (Ministria Komanda e Përgjithshme e Mbrojtjes Kombëtare).

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[Constitution]

continues in power until another People's Convention elects a new Presidium. 646

The Presidium convokes the People's Convention within one month after its election. 643

TITLE II

Administrative Organs of the State

ARTICLE 57

The Government is the highest executive and administrative organ of the People's Republic of Albania. 645

The government is appointed and dismissed by the People's Convention.

The government is responsible to the People's Convention and must account to it for its activities. Between the two sessions of the People's Convention the government is responsible to the Presidium of the Convention before which it must render full account of its activities.

ARTICLE 58

The government performs its duties according to the constitution and the laws. The government issues the decrees necessary for carrying out laws on the basis of a special authorization; it gives binding instructions for the execution of laws.

Orders, decrees, instructions, and decisions of the government must be signed by the Prime Minister and the minister in charge of the department concerned.

ARTICLE 59

The government directs and coordinates the functioning of the ministries, committees, and all other institutions which come under its jurisdiction.

The government outlines the economic plan of the state, submits the annual budget to the People's Convention for its approval, and supervises its execution; directs the credit and monetary systems; takes all necessary measures to uphold the constitution and the rights of all citizens; directs all military forces; keeps in touch with foreign governments; carries out treaties with foreign countries and other international obliga-

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645 tions; submits bills prepared by the government and by various ministries to the People's Convention; decides on how ministries and other government institutions shall be organized; and creates committees to execute economic, cultural, and defensive measures on a national scale.

ARTICLE 60

The government is composed of the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Ministers, the Chairman of the Committee for Economic Planning, and the Chairman of the Committee of Control.

The members of the government take the oath of office before the Presidium of the People's Convention.

ARTICLE 61

The Prime Minister represents the government, presides over all meetings, and directs all the activities of the government.

ARTICLE 62

The members of the government head the various administrative departments of the State.

The Cabinet may have also Ministers without portfolio.

ARTICLE 63

[687] Members of the government are held criminally responsible for the violation of the constitution or any other law in the performance of their duties.

They are also responsible for any damage they may cause the state for acting contrary to law.

The exact responsibilities of members of the government will be stated in a special law.

ARTICLE 64

Ministers and government committees are authorized to issue orders, regulations, and instructions relating to laws and decrees of the government.

Each minister supervises the execution of the governmental laws, decrees, and instructions in his own department and is held responsible for their execution in his particular administrative branch.

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ARTICLE 65

The various ministries of the government are:

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1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Ministry of the Interior
3. Ministry of National Defense
4. Ministry of Justice
5. Ministry of Finance
6. Ministry of Education
7. Ministry of Economy
8. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
9. Ministry of Public Works
10. Ministry of Health

ARTICLE 66

The government may appoint a special Council of Ministers to deal with questions of national economy and defense.

The decree by which this Council is appointed shall determine its organization and scope.

TITLE III

Organs of the Local Governmental Units

ARTICLE 67

The people's councils are the governmental units in rural districts, communes, subprefectures, and prefectures. 631

The people's councils are elected directly by the people: 666 those of the rural districts for two years and those of the communes, subprefectures, and prefectures, for three years.

The people's councils of the communes, subprefectures, and prefectures hold regular meetings according to special regulations.

ARTICLE 68

The people's councils direct their own administrative affairs, are responsible for economic and cultural matters within their jurisdiction, maintain order, see that the laws 632 623

[Constitution]
TITLE IV

Courts and Department of the Attorney General
(a) *Courts*

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ARTICLE 75

The judicial organs of the People's Republic of Albania are: The Supreme Court, the People's Courts of the prefectures and subprefectures, and the Military Courts.

Special Courts may be created by law for specific questions. [698]

ARTICLE 76

The courts give their decisions in the name of the people.

The courts are independent in the exercise of their own functions. They are separated from all the administrative branches of government. Their decisions cannot be altered except by higher courts.

The higher courts are empowered within the law to control lower courts.

The Ministry of Justice directs and controls all matters of judicial administration and organization. [645]

ARTICLE 77

The courts try cases according to law.

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ARTICLE 78

In principle, court sessions are open to the public.

ARTICLE 79

In principle, the decisions of the courts are given for the entire bench. The judicial personnel of the subprefectures and prefectures sitting as a court of original jurisdiction is composed of permanent judges and juries, both of whom have equal rights.

Penal verdicts of more than ten years cannot be given by a court of original jurisdiction but only by a court of the prefecture or by a higher court.

ARTICLE 80

The official language in all courts is Albanian.

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